



**U.S. Department of the Interior
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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LONG RIDER GENE GLASSCOCK TO ARRIVE IN COLUMBUS RIDING GENTLED WILD HORSES

Long Rider Gene Glasscock will soon be arriving at the last of the lower 48 State Capitals. Famed American Long Rider Gene Glasscock has done it.

Gene visited Capital number 47 on November 2nd in Lansing, Michigan and is headed for the last capital, Columbus, Ohio. He is scheduled to arrive on December 1, 2005. This makes the 48th capital that Gene has ridden to on a trip begun more than three years ago.

In February, 2006 a wild horse adoption is coming to Columbus at the Ohio Expo Center and State Fair grounds where you will be able to adopt a wild horse, if you are qualified, and join Gene as an adopter of a wild horse while enjoying the challenges and benefits of owning an "American Legend". Perhaps you too will become a "Long Rider". Call 1-800- 293-1781 for more information about the adoption.

In September 2002, Gene, a founding member of the Long Riders Guild, began a journey to follow the route taken by four riders in 1912 who visited all 48 states. The Overland Westerners, as the original group was called, began their journey from the state of Washington. They rode a total of 20,352 continuous miles throughout the years of 1912 to 1915, making them the first, and only, Long Riders to accomplish such a feat.

Gene was 67 at the time he began this trip, the oldest person known by the Long Riders to make such a journey. He has two purposes for making the trip:

- To raise money for the Philips Fund, a unique scholarship program that offers underprivileged young adults from Paraguay the chance to attend college in Florida. In return, the students sign a contract stating that they will return to their homeland to help educate their fellow citizens.
- To send a message to an often overlooked portion of America's population, its senior citizens. As he told the Long Riders Guild, "I know I'm older now. But I can still swing into that saddle. So even if I have to ride a little slower, I want older people to look at me

and realize they don't have to just sit on the porch and do nothing. I'm proof positive that they can mount up, ride out, and still live life."

His initial mounts for the journey were George and Frank, two six year old Tennessee Walker geldings named in homage of George Beck and Frank Heath, Gene's predecessors. After completing the first 10,000 miles, Gene contacted the Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Program for assistance in procuring two mustangs to help him finish the journey.

Tosi, a black mustang gelding gathered in 1997 in Lander, Wyoming, was trained in South Carolina before working in a trail program and an equine therapy program. He now rotates between being ridden by Gene and carrying his packs.

Buddy, an eight year old sorrel mustang gelding, was gathered from Adobe Town, Wyoming. Buddy was trained by inmates of the Colorado Department of Corrections through a special program which helps both the inmates and the mustangs improve their lives. After training, Buddy joined Gene and his equine team mates in Oklahoma.

Visit the Wild Horse and Burro website, www.wildhorseandburro.gov for more information about the wild horse adoption program and adoption schedule and visit Gene's website, www.geneglasscock.org to view the map of his historic journey and read his trip journals.

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